

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending. By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The specification has been updated with patent numbers. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at page 7, lines 3-7; and elsewhere in the specification. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not introduce any new matter and favorable consideration is requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Griffin for courteously and professionally conducting a telephone interview with Frank Rosenberg (the undersigned attorney) and inventor Dr. Yong Wang on June 28. During this interview, Dr. Wang explained the difference between contact time and residence time and that the lowest contact times in Noda were calculated to be greater than 270 msec. We further discussed amending claim 1 to recite a contact time of 100 msec or less as a way to distinguish the Noda reference.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 10, 28, 33, 34, 38, 41, 42, 45, 49-51, and 53-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Noda et al. (US 4,101,449).

Claim 1 is now amended to recite contact times of 0.1 sec or less. The examples of Noda have contact times of greater than 0.27 sec (see the attached Declaration of Yong Wang). Furthermore, there is no suggestion of lower contact times, especially since shorter contact times would have been expected to lower conversion. Also, since the best data is typically presented, the

worker of ordinary skill would expect that heat or mass transport limitations would dramatically decrease conversion at shorter contact times.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The terminal disclaimer of U.S. Patent No. 6,284,217 is resubmitted herewith. This terminal disclaimer was submitted and paid for in the previous submission. Therefore, no fee accompanies this resubmission; however, any necessary fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 501749.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions or would like to speak to Applicants' representative, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1 July 2005

send correspondence to:
Frank S. Rosenberg
18 Echo Hill Lane
Moraga, CA 94556
fax. no. (925) 376-8429

By: Frank S. Rosenberg

Frank S. Rosenberg
Registration No. 37,068
tel: (925) 376-8416